

Gorbachev, Arafat meet in E. Berlin

TUNIS (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev and Yasser Arafat agree on the necessity of rapid global undertaking to end violence in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported Sunday. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), met the Soviet leader in East Berlin during Saturday's violence-marred ceremonies to mark the 40th anniversary of the East German state, WAFA reported from Tunis, headquarters of the PLO. The talks took place "in light of the escalation of repression by the Israeli army in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the pursuit of arrogant politics by Israeli leaders," WAFA said. Gorbachev and Arafat also agreed to coordinate Palestinian-Soviet relations.

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State visit to Canada begins Monday

King, Queen in Rome

By a Jordan Times Staff

Written with agency dispatches
ROME — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Sunday on a two-day working visit to Italy before embarking on a six-day state visit to Canada.

The King and Queen, who are accompanied by Prime Minister Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Planning Minister Ziad Faris, were received upon arrival here by the Italian minister of environment and other senior officials as well as the Jordanian ambassador to Italy and the Italian ambassador to Jordan.

The King is expected to hold formal talks with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and other senior officials Monday before departing for Canada.

Regent visits army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday made field tours of several units of the Armed Forces.

After hearing brief reports on training operations, the Crown Prince conveyed to the conscripts the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and stressed the importance of training. Prince Hassan also welcomed military delegations that visited the units to watch exercises.

Present were His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, senior military officers, and a number of friendly military delegations. Prince Hassan was accompanied by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh.

Israeli army seals off occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army sealed off the occupied West Bank Sunday and put police and troops on alert as the Jewish state shut down for the annual day of atonement fast, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

The West Bank closure followed Saturday's sealing of the occupied Gaza Strip, barring more than 1.7 million Palestinians from Israel over the 25-hour fast, when all traffic stops, work is forbidden and radio and television close down.

As Jews mark the fast from Sunday afternoon to dusk on Monday, the Palestinian uprising enters its 23rd month with a general strike and protests.

The army maintained a curfew on most West Bank refugee camps, a military spokesman said.

After a break Saturday to replenish food stocks, Arabs in the occupied territories and occupied Arab Jerusalem resumed a five-day strike called by the revolt's underground leaders.

Palestinian sources said Sunday that a body was found over the weekend in the West Bank village of Beita. They could not name the dead man nor say if he was one of the more than 120 Palestinians killed by unknown assailants on suspicion of collaboration with the Israeli occupation authorities.

Papandreou launches coalition efforts against heavy odds

ATHENS (R) — Former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, who faces criminal charges, worked against the odds Sunday to form a left-wing coalition government but a second national election this year seemed inevitable.

Papandreou, 70, accepted a three-day mandate from President Christos Sartzetakis Saturday to try to coax a Communist-led alliance to join his Socialist Party in a leftist coalition government.

He took up the mandate after the Conservative-Communist coalition formed in July resigned, saying it had completed its government clean-up campaign and wanted elections Nov. 5.

Papandreou, who ruled from 1981 until an election defeat last June, has little chance of winning over the Communists, who voted in parliament last month to have him tried on criminal charges.

technology."

"Canada's position on the Middle East has been very positive in recent years on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanon civil war and the lingering dispute between Iran and Iraq after eight years of war," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

The King is expected to renew the Arah call for a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East.

On the economic front, Canada has given Jordan 32 million Canadian dollars in aid through a government aid organization, Petro-Canada International, to help the Kingdom explore for oil.

Canadian companies have been involved in setting up a factory to make medical capsules in Jordan and in several agricultural and engineering projects.

In addition to his meeting with Canadian officials, the King is expected to address members of the business community and deliver lectures at Canadian universities before spending the weekend in the Rocky Mountains.

The King will make a stopover in London on his way back and deliver a lecture at Oxford University.

The King and Queen were seen off upon their departure from Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members, Cabinet minister and senior officials. The Crown Prince was sworn in as Regent before the King's departure.

PLO says 100 dead or wounded

NICOSIA (AP) — A top aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said more than 100 Palestinians were killed or wounded in clashes Sunday in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Bassam Abu Sharif called on the United States and the United Nations Security Council "to act immediately to put an end to the insure terrorism launched by the (Yitzhak) Shamir government."

His statement was released by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunis and made available to the Associated Press in Nicosia on Sunday.

"Israeli terrorism exceeded all limits today, when more than 100 Palestinians fell wounded or dead in the Gaza Strip and West Bank cities and villages," Abu Sharif said.

Abu Sharif said Israel had decided to build a new camp in the West Bank and to expand the existing Assar-3 camp for incarceration of thousands of Palestinians held without charge or trial.

With the Conservatives and Communists controlling 173 seats in the 300-seat parliament, there seems no way for Papandreou to avoid running an election campaign while under the cloud of a pending criminal trial.

If Papandreou fails the Communists have a chance. They have said that, like New Democracy Saturday, they will reject the mandate. Sartzetakis must then seek a national unity government and finally he calls elections. This is expected by Saturday.

Papandreou's decision to accept the mandate appeared to be a defiant gesture to show he remains a force to be reckoned with despite his recent misfortunes.

He has been trying to regroup the Socialist party, whose strength was cut to 125 seats from 161 in parliament, and woo back disgruntled members who left because of the scandals.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are seen off upon their departure for Italy Sunday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His

Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein, royal family members and senior officials (Petra photo)



Palestinians urge U.S. to pressure Israel into talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Would-be Palestinian negotiators Sunday urged more U.S. pressure on Israel to begin peace talks and warned of more violence because of Israel's refusal to meet them under an Egyptian proposal.

A leading Labour party politician, Moshe Shahal, said U.S. help in choosing Palestinian delegates to talk with Israel could "rescue the political situation" following last Friday's decision to turn down Egypt's offer to sponsor a dialogue.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak proposed that talks in Cairo would include several Palestinians expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities. But the right-wing Likud party blocked approval of the plan by Israel's divided cabinet, saying it refused to talk to anybody linked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

One of the Palestinians suggested by Mubarak appealed Sunday to European countries and the United States to lead to the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

"The United States must take a more active and serious role to convince the Israelis to hold the meeting proposed by Mubarak," Radwan Abu Ayyash said in a telephone interview.

Abu Ayyash, head of the West Bank's Arab Journalists Association and a supporter of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, urged the White House to step up its own dialogue with the PLO "to counter the Israeli decision."

The Labour party, Likud's partner in the coalition government, had welcomed Mubarak's offer.

Assad Saftawi, a Gaza Strip school principal and another person reportedly suggested by Mubarak, said he was shocked that Mubarak's plan was rejected.

"The decision will bring waves of violence and extremism," he said. "The blame is on Israel."

Both Saftawi and Abu Ayyash predicted more violence in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation if steps were not taken towards peace.

"Palestinian moderation has its limits. If there is no achievement, then our people will go back to extremism," Saftawi said.

Likud contention

However, Likud members maintained that the vote last Friday did not halt progress towards peace.

"The peace process... does not depend on one vote in the cabinet," said Ehud Olmert, the minister in charge of Arab affairs.

He told Israeli radio that the government could still agree to meet a Palestinian delegation if the members were acceptable to Israel.

His Likud colleague, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, blamed last week's rejection on the "stubbornness" of Labour in forcing a vote on Mubarak's proposal. He maintained the vote should have been put off until after Israel received an expected U.S. proposal to assist in forming a Palestinian delegation.

But Shahal, Labour's energy minister in the

coalition cabinet, said Arens never pleaded for a delay and came to last Friday's meeting with only a vague notion of what the United States might propose.

"If there is an American proposal, which we haven't heard explicitly from the foreign minister... this could rescue the political situation," he said.

Abu Sharif hits Likud

In Tunis, a senior aide to Arafat said a Middle East settlement will be blocked if Israel continues to refuse peace talks with Palestinians.

Bassam Abu Sharif also urged U.S. President George Bush to persuade Israel to talk to the Palestinians at a meeting in Cairo as proposed by Egypt. His remarks were made in Moscow Saturday and distributed in Tunis Sunday.

"Shamir's and the Likud's refusal to accept Egyptian proposal regarding elections is irrefutable proof of their devotion... to their decision to reject any withdrawal from the occupied territories," Abu Sharif said.

Abu Sharif singled out the Likud bloc, but made no reference to Labour members of the Israeli government who Friday voted in favour of talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

Abu Sharif said he hoped "President Bush will act positively and constructively to convince Israel..."

"It is clear the PLO has made all possible concessions to advance the peace process, and that the real obstacle is the Shamir government," he said.

He said the United Nations Security Council must take "practical decisions," to end repression in the occupied territories, before adopting an action programme for the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Avi Pazner, media adviser to Shamir, said the next diplomatic move belonged to the United States.

Israel, in constant contact with Washington, still hoped that Baker would formally offer to hold preliminary U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian talks on the composition of a Palestinian delegation for negotiations, he said.

"We will have to see what will be the next American steps... It's not yet a crisis and we have to do our utmost to see that it doesn't become a crisis," Pazner told Reuters.

"I think he (Baker) wants certainly to do it in agreement with, or at least in understanding with, the Egyptians. Maybe he wants not to send a letter but to send somebody else (to the Middle East)," Pazner said.

Pazner said Israel might also talk to Egypt in an attempt to break the deadlock. "There are certainly other avenues which we want to explore," he said.

An opinion poll in the daily Maariv suggested the Likud largely opposed talks with a Palestinian team containing people expelled from the occupied territories, as has been proposed.

'U.S. forces were authorised to seize Noriega'

WASHINGTON (R) — Top Bush administration officials said Sunday that the U.S. military commander in Panama was authorised to seize military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega during last Tuesday's coup attempt if he could do so without bloodshed or using military force.

Baker said that a message had been sent to General Maxwell Thurman, the U.S. commander in Panama, that if there was an opportunity to take Noriega without risking bloodshed or open military involvement he was to do so.

Both were commenting in separate television interviews on a Washington Post report Sunday that said U.S. forces in Panama were authorised to remove Noriega to a U.S. military base, but by the time the authorisation was received, the coup had ended.

Troops loyal to Noriega put down the coup attempt by middle-ranking officers Tuesday. The military said 10 rebels were killed in the fighting and 37 people, including three senior officers, were arrested.

Thurman said he was free to go ahead, he said.

Cheney said that after the rebels had contacted U.S. officials to say they were holding Noriega, "I made it clear that our commander on the scene was authorised to get him (Noriega) if he could do it without using military force, and that he should develop an option or a plan to use military force to get him."

But Cheney said the United States never made a decision to use military force.

"That would have involved going in against the rebels and taking Noriega from them. I never thought that was a very good idea but we told him to be prepared in case he got the order to do so and then shortly after that the coup fell apart," he

Nathan says Israel sent him to Arafat

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli ordered jailed last week for meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat last year was quoted Sunday as saying the government sent him to talk to the PLO in 1982. Veteran peace campaigner Abi Nathan, a popular broadcaster, is due to begin a six-month jail term Tuesday for breaking a 1986 law barring contacts with the PLO. Nathan told an audience in Haifa that the government sent him to Beirut during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon to try to free a captured Israeli pilot, the daily Maariv reported. "As I spoke to Arafat our shells were falling nearby," it quoted him as saying. "I asked him to make a gesture but he refused saying, 'I have 6,000 prisoners of ours and we have only one of yours.' Iranian-born Nathan, 62, met Arafat and other PLO officials in Tunis and Strasbourg in September last year in what he says were efforts to persuade them to make peace with Israel.

Taif talks at 'crossroads'

TAIF (Agencies) — A leading Lebanese Muslim legislator said Sunday that talks to end his country's civil war were deadlocked and warned that a "more vicious war" would erupt if Christians do not surrender some of their political power.

Zaher Khatib, a Sunni Muslim who represents the National Front, an alliance of 18 Syrian and Iranian-backed Lebanese factions, told reporters that Syria would not withdraw its troops from Lebanon until the Christians agree to political reforms.

"We're at a dangerous crossroads," he said after 63 Lebanese lawmakers failed to meet for the third straight day because of deep divisions on the central issue of Syria's military presence in Lebanon and the reforms proposed by the Arah League.

The 33 Christian and 30 Muslim legislators were gathered in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif Sept. 30 by the 22-member Arab League to discuss a "national reconciliation charter."

Khatib declared that the Taif meeting was an "historic and golden opportunity" to end the war and should not be lost.

"The alternative is a renewal of the war, and this time it will be a more vicious war because the weapons are going to be more vicious," he warned.

There will either be "a radical political solution that fundamentally ends factionalism, or there will only be a truce that will see new wars," he said.

Echoing the stand by Syria, he said: "The Lebanese problem is internal, not external; the result of a corrupt political system."

The Arab League has proposed

a two-year withdrawal by Syrian troops from western sectors of Beirut to the Bekaa Valley in the east, after which a new Lebanese government would negotiate future Syrian military deployments.

Christian leader and army chief Christian Aoun has demanded a complete Syrian pullout within six months.

The Syrians have made it clear they will not withdraw before the Christians agree to share power equally with Muslims.

They have also linked withdrawal of their 40,000 troops in Lebanon to an Israeli withdrawal from a border strip in South Lebanon.

The Israelis have refused to budge, despite United Nations pressure, and there has been no sign they have changed their minds.

Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim parliament member Yousef Hamoud said consultations in Taif had been deadlocked for three days by what he called a "tug of war" between Muslims and Christians.

But Hammond, from the Shi'ite-dominated regions of South Lebanon, stressed the importance of a peace plan offered by Arab mediators as a "historic chance for conciliation."

The United States encouraged Arab mediators Sunday to keep working to achieve agreement at the Taif meeting.

"The Arab League committee has given the Lebanese people new hope. It deserves the full support of the international community," said a statement released by the U.S. embassy in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Violence rages in Nagorno-Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Armenian and Azerbaijani gunmen attacked each other's villages in and around the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh at the weekend and Soviet troops had to intervene, TASS said Sunday.

The official news agency said people were being killed every day, houses burned down and cars destroyed, in the enclave where troops were sent more than a year ago to

Polisario attack ignites heaviest fighting in months

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Polisario rebel forces in the disputed Western Sahara launched an armoured attack at dawn Saturday, leading to the bloodiest battle since a ceasefire was declared by the guerrillas in February.

A government statement admitted 14 Moroccan soldiers died, including a colonel, in repelling the attack launched south of Guelta Zemmour from Mauritanian territory.

An officer and 30 other Moroccan troops were wounded, the statement said, while 80 Polisario fighters were killed or injured.

Ten jeeps armed with missile launchers and anti-tank rocket launchers were captured along with four prisoners and 12 other Polisario vehicles were destroyed by Moroccan air attacks, the statement said.

A Polisario statement from Algiers, Algeria, meanwhile claimed "numerous" Moroccans either killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

The battle was "of a murderous violence," Polisario said, beginning at dawn and continuing for four hours. Polisario claimed to have breached 15 kilometres of Morocco's defensive front and pushed the Moroccan forces back for 25 kilometres.

The statement did not say how the battle ended or list Polisario casualties.

The guerrilla movement, at one time actively supported by Algeria, has fought a mainly losing battle against some 100,000 Moroccan troops in the disputed Western Sahara, claimed by Morocco since Spain left the territory in 1975.

Polisario has proclaimed it an

independent state. United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has proposed a plan to hold a referendum in the mineral-rich region.

The fate of Polisario appeared sealed last year when Algeria became reconciled long-standing grievances with Morocco and joined the five-nation Union of Arab Maghreb comprising Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania and Libya.

The Sahara Front had been quiet, except for isolated Polisario

attacks, since the guerrillas declared a "temporary truce" in February following King Hassan II's meeting with the Polisario leaders in Marrakech. Similar meetings had been scheduled but were cancelled by the king, who called them "pointless."

Hassan had been persuaded by President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria to hold another meeting with the Polisario leadership but after the attack decided such a meeting would be useless, the official Moroccan News Agency (MAP) reported.

The movement suffered serious

setbacks in recent days as several important members of its leadership returned to the Moroccan-controlled Sahara of their free will under an amnesty offered by Hassan.

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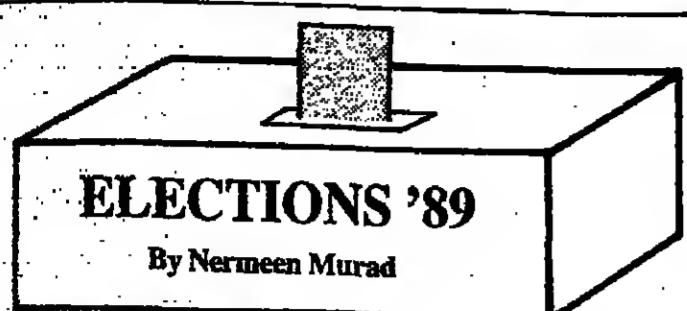
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ELECTIONS '89

By Nermene Murad

Ministry of the Interior
Constituency.....
Application number.....

His Excellency the governor of.....

I hereby submit two copies of my candidacy registration form for membership in the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament representing..... constituency..... seat, enclosing, as outlined below, official papers which prove that I do not carry any other nationality or enjoy foreign protection, I do not enjoy financial benefits from any government department barring land and building rent contracts and I do not belong to any illegal (political) organisation.

Name..... Religion.....
Place of birth..... Area of residence.....

Official documents:

1.....
2.....
3.....
4.....
5.....
Date:.....

And thus the race for elections begins.....

Candidates are meeting with voters everywhere. The discussions are heated, and the topics centre around the ability of each candidate to stand up for his views on any subject under the sun.

Candidates insist that calm should prevail over issues which deal with "possible corruption." The public agrees that what they need is "a strong calm hand."

One candidate told his friends that if all 100 million Arabs carried white flags and walked to Jerusalem "Israel will not give us a grain of sand."

The only predictable outcome of the election meetings in the coming month for those interested in attending as many meetings as possible, is more and more fat cells to deal with after the intense sessions of *kenafeh* (Arab sweet) eating.

(Beware of the "sauvage")

But then if one insists that they do not want to get fat and will stick to coffee or tea then the outcome is a severe case of insomnia.

Out of the conviction that personal recognition is a determining factor in the elections, some candidates are providing voters with cards that carry their pictures... in colour, no less.

Awareness is quickly rising as to the logo of the elections. The problem is that candidates are depending on the voters' "awareness to elect the right candidate" and the voters are depending on candidates' "awareness to deal with national issues with responsibility."

A signature collecting campaign among candidates is underway to ask for a review of election campaigns advertising costs in local newspapers. The letter has not yet found its way to the officials in charge.

A lone middle-aged lady who no one recognised arrived at a candidate's meeting and announced that she has decided to nominate herself as a candidate because "I want to be one of the sacrificing candidates" now that women were allowed to vote and run in the national elections.

One candidate at a public debate in the capital said his platform included 43 demands which he publicly announced would commit him to achieving during his four years in parliament.

Another confident candidate at a similar public debate promised that men will get equal rights with women, and he was "not joking," either.

An enthusiastic and well spoken candidate insisted that he was progressive in his thinking, but invited women voters to meet with his mother who chairs Islamic religion meetings for women.

The candidate claiming to represent the "youth" roams the streets looking for his "constituency."

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SHARIF ZEID VISITS ARMY HQ: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday visited the armed forces headquarters and discussed with Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb matters of interest to the Armed Forces. (Petra)

BADRAN RECEIVES JAPANESE ENVOY: Minister of Education Dr. Adnan Badran Sunday received Japanese Ambassador Makoto Watanabe at the conclusion of his tour of duty. The discussions dealt with cultural and educational relations between the two countries. (Petra)

SAKET, AUSTRALIAN ENVOY HOLD TALKS: Minister of Agriculture Bassam Saket Sunday discussed with Australian Ambassador to Jordan Graham Bowker means to bolster bilateral cooperation. (Petra)

VOTER CARDS IN KARAK: Karak Governor Ismail Al Zaben called on the 67,563 voters in the governorate to call at the polling committees to collect their voter cards. (Petra)

NEW TENDERS FOR SERVICE PROJECTS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Yousef Hamdan has agreed to offer a number of tenders for the execution of service projects at the cost of JD 146,000. The projects include opening and asphalt paving a number of roads in Zarqa, Karak Governorates as well as Jerash and Ajloun districts. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of watercolours on Jordan by Salem Kanaan at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of Islamic scripts at Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ An exhibition marking the 1st centennial of the Eiffel Tower displaying photographs, drawings and pictures demonstrating the tower in all its aspects at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist "Omar Bouali" at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Multiples Regards" displaying lithographs of Picasso, Matisse, Miró, Bracque, Cocteau and Le Corbusier, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

Organ donation — a new life for others

By Sahir Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Giving does not stop when life comes to an end, people can still benefit others even after they die. Donating body organs is widely considered a noble and humane gesture and though the deceased may not be present to receive words of thanks, the gratitude is awesome.

For the very first time in Jordan, the parents of a youth aged 17, who died in a car accident, donated his corneas in addition to other parts of his body.

"This is the first time ever in Jordan that corneas are donated, and in the transplants we used to perform the corneas were all imported," Dr. Ibrahim Ayesh, head of the eye department at the King Hussein Medical Centre, said.

In Jordan, according to Ayesh, people only donate hidden organs like the heart and kidneys, "that is because people are highly emotional, and they mistakenly tend to think we remove the whole eye, while in fact we remove only the corneas and replace it with a plastic one," he explained.

Corneas are imported to Jordan, from the United States, Denmark, Switzerland and other European countries. During the past few months, doctors faced extreme difficulties in getting them as there was a shortage of these tissues all over the world.

"So eye banks in Europe and the states encouraged developed countries to get their own corneas, because local tissues are of better

quality," Ayesh said, adding that "the cultural media in which the cornea is kept, affects the viability of the graft."

The Eye Bank Friends' Society, has been trying to convince people to donate their corneas. "After people heard about this noble gesture, we have over 1,000 donors on paper," Ayesh said.

In his death, Khaled Suhai Hassan, gave life a new meaning to both Khawla Shamayleh, 22, and Ramadan Ahmad 14.

"I was desperate, and gave up hope of ever getting back my eyesight. I cannot find the words to describe what I felt when the bandage was removed and I was able to see. I am so thrilled," Khawla said.

Until the day of the operation, Ramadan had to be dragged to school. "He did not like it because he could not see a thing, one of his eyes was blind and the other is very weak," his father said.

Squated on his hospital bed, Ramadan enthusiastically talked about going back to school, "now I can play football with my friends," he exclaimed.

His father decided to donate every organ in his body that can save other people's lives. "Frankly, I never thought about this, but this incident made me realize how vital it is for us to help others, so I immediately went and signed the donation forms," he said.

Khawla too has also decided to donate parts of her body after her death. "It may be hard for others to understand, but it sure makes me feel good to know that other lives will be saved," she said.

Royal Decree approves new engineers association body

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued, endorsing an amendment to the engineering offices and companies regulation, under which a new body will be set up at the Jordan Engineers Association to deal with such offices.

The association president, Laith Shbeilat, said Sunday that the new body will play a major role in organizing and upgrading consulting work.

At a press conference held Sunday at the Professional Asso-

ciations Complex, Shbeilat said by setting up such a new body, the association will be the first Arab engineering party that has been able to cope with the new Arab organisation, called for and advocated by the Arab Engineers Union.

The union has called for establishing an Arab consulting complex with Amman as its headquarter and has encouraged the establishment of such local bodies in various Arab countries. Shbeilat said that new body will

be entrusted with consulting work under the umbrella of the association's council. He noted that the council has adopted a policy whereby it will not interfere in the activities of the new bodies.

With the establishment of this body, which will maintain close cooperation with the Jordan Contracting Association, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Central Tenders Department, the responsibility will be shared Shbeilat noted.

Violin and piano duo offers a helping hand to conservatory

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When the American Ambassador to Jordan introduced the violin and piano duo Kathleen Winkler and Deborah Berman as artistic ambassadors to Jordan, the comment was taken lightly. When the performance was over, the audience agreed that this was an event that witnessed to the elevated standards which American performers have exceeded. The duo are, in fact, winners of The Artistic Ambassador Programme, held at the Library of Congress on Dec. 11, 1986. 186 music schools throughout the United States having graduate degrees in performance were invited to nominate one or two duos. It was a strenuous competition held among 50 nominated duos where the jurors were looking for: "musicianship, communication and flair." The winners were launched by the Ford Foundation into a series of concerts held at the I.F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts. They were then sent as cultural emissaries for six-to-eight-week concert tours overseas.

We have had the good fortune to receive them here, in Jordan, since they are as much concerned with music education as with performing.

Winkler explained it this way:

"One must really want to teach, to be able to do it. Some want to really perform and not care about educating children. Somewhere down the line I made the decision to teach, but I could not stop performing. Educating is, for me, a 65 per cent commitment."

They are here primarily to give a music workshop at the conservatory and for the military band.

"It is important for the kids to hear someone better than they play," explained Ms. Winkler, "they will profit."

It was interesting to see them listen intently to Mr. Kifah Fakhouri who filled them in with details on our youthful Music Conservatory.

Miss Berman, dean of Music at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Dance then explained about the refurbishing of her own school programme, "we have come a long way from what it was before, and still have a long way to go," she explained. "We teach 1,700 students of all ages, even adults. We teach all the instruments using the ORFF

programme especially to young children. We have eight groups of chamber music, string quartets, piano duos, music appreciation programmes, note reading, etc.

We use other methods such as the

Suzuki method (for violin, cello and flute) that we develop according to the needs of the students."

In concert at the residence of the U.S. ambassador, the duo showed their talent by playing the following repertoire: Dehussay's Sonata for Violin and Piano, where long romantic intonations swell into a crescendo of ravishing rhythms and where the individuality of each instrument is thrown into relief and their harmony grafted back smoothly in the manner typical of the impressionists, his contemporaries.

Serenade Espagnola of Champane-Kreisler, a short serenade that started with repetitious melody and ended in sharp whistle of the violin.

It was interesting to see them listen intently to Mr. Kifah Fakhouri who filled them in with details on our youthful Music Conservatory.

La Gitana, another Spanish gypsy song by Kreisler, opened up with exotic orientalism and moved on to Spanish rhythms.

Three Preludes of Gershwin (could an American ever resist performing Gershwin?). Completely warmed up, Kathleen Winkler swung out with the deep 'Blues' spirit of the second prelude moving the audience with her deep sentiment. The third prelude which had jazzy rhythms was almost an examination of speed and skill in which both performers scored high.

In all, what they played, they performed in perfect harmony. The piano, acting as accompaniment, was played flawlessly and well by Miss Berman, lacking none of the spirited performance of her partner.

We thank these talented ladies for sharing their knowledge and skill with our musicians, young and old.

In response to the encores of

the audience — mainly composed of diplomats, the conservatory family and local musicians and music educators — the duo played Bedrich Smetana's dramatic "From the Homeland."

Without for a moment swerving from their clarity and precision, both young ladies flowed from sad and yearning Bohemian melodies to vivid gypsy tones, on to folk highlights that seemed to appear at intervals, until Smetana's ardent patriotic rhythms overrode them.

The applause of the audience was so enthusiastic that they offered them a bonus performance of Hungarian composer J. Haydn's Hejre Kati, a classical version of gypsy music which Miss Winkler thinks is so good and not performed often enough.

As she played it, I could understand the critique of the Detroit News "Miss Winkler projected the kind of innate musicality that can't be taught."

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Queen Zein opens charity bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, Sunday opened a charity bazaar, organised by Mabarrat Um Al Hussein in cooperation with the diplomatic corps accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court.

Proceeds of this bazaar, which was held at Al Hussein Youth City, will benefit the orphanage.

The bazaar includes handicrafts, embroideries, traditional crafts, ceramics, artificial flowers, silver and copper-ware, traditional industries and foods.

The orphanage's secretary, Ihsan Al Zein,

addressed the opening ceremony and voiced appreciation for the Queen's patronage and her support of the orphaned children.

She thanked the diplomatic corps in Jordan for their participation in the bazaar and for their continued support to the children of the orphanage.

The opening ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Taghrir and Princess Alia Al Faisal, Sharifa Fatima Naser and wives of members of the diplomatic corps in Amman.



Iraqi justice minister ends visit

AMMAN — Iraqi Justice Minister Akram Abdul Qader Ali left Amman Sunday at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan, during which he delivered a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to His Majesty King Hussein and met with his Jordanian counterpart Rafeh Al Wazani. Wazani said King Hussein has requested the Iraqi minister to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Hussein. In a departure statement, Ali praised the close cooperation among ministers of justice in the four Arab Cooperation Council states — Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt.

He noted that the four justice ministers, during their recent meeting in Baghdad, have been able to take a number of decisions and to make recommendations capable of bolstering inter-ACC cooperation in the areas of jurisprudence, justice and Islamic law. He added that the four ministers also reached agreements on issues pertaining to unifying legislations, laws and regulations among the four countries. The ACC states are now in the process of implementing such recommendations and decisions, which constitute a basis for Arab unity (Petra photo)

AMMAN (Petra) — Preparations are currently underway in the various parts of the Kingdom to celebrate the Prophet's birthday which falls on Thursday, Oct. 12.

For this purpose the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has drawn up a special programme for the major celebration to be held at Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture next Wednesday.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayat, Chairman of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs Akram Zua'fer, the Mufti of Jordan Izzudin Al Khatib and the Armed Forces Mufti Sheikh Nooh Sulaiman will speak during the ceremonies.

The celebration will include planting trees, holding an Islamic book exhibition and Quranic and cultural contests as well as open-

ing of a number of new mosques and Islamic centres.

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New era for Jordan

IN ESSENCE, His Majesty King Hussein's speech to the country Saturday ushered in the beginning of a new era in the Kingdom's modern history. When the King spoke about Jordan entering a new stage with the Nov. 8 national elections, he obviously had in mind a new beginning that goes beyond the elections as important as they are. In fact, His Majesty reminded his people that elections per se are just part and parcel of a comprehensive new period that encompasses domestic, regional and international events and developments. To paraphrase His Majesty's words the projected elections must be viewed in proper perspective and as the culmination of many factors and circumstances commencing with Amman's historic 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative relations with the West Bank that offered the first opportunity since the 1967 war to reactivate parliamentary life on the basis of periodic national elections as called for by the Constitution.

Having reached this new stage, Jordanians are called upon to seize the opportunity to make parliamentary life workable by making it a truly national forum for policy-making. It will be noted that His Majesty has called on the new parliamentarians to bear their solemn individual and collective responsibilities in addressing all sorts of national, regional and international issues. Henceforth, the King proclaimed, the representatives of the Jordanians in parliament will share in elaborating the policies of the Kingdom on all matters and assist in their implementation. As the issues confronting the country are now so complex and awesome they clearly require institutionalised deliberations and analysis. In turn, our future parliamentarians are called upon to exercise their duties and function with reason, moderation and pragmatism. Otherwise, the entire democratisation process would suffer and the advancements registered already in that direction could be reversed. Above all, voters and candidates in the national elections must be wary of sectarianism and factionalism lest they willfully lead the country to a situation similar in scope and dimension to that which so tragically exists in Lebanon. Religion must therefore be put to the service of the country and not to divide it. That is an added reason why Jordanians look forward to the day when the Kingdom's election law will erase forever any references to religious or ethnic criteria from its provisions.

In more ways than one, His Majesty King Hussein's address to the nation Saturday contains the basic elements of a national charter that should guide the course during the new chapter in the Kingdom's development. It needs to be studied and examined thoroughly before attempting to comment on it in depth. One can be sure that its contents would give readers and observers much food for thought for a long time to come. Its careful reading in these critical days that precede the next national elections must therefore be regarded as mandatory for all members of the Jordanian family.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

King Hussein's nationwide address Saturday captured the editorials in Sunday's Arabic daily papers.

The Al Ra'i daily said that Jordan now stands on the threshold of a new stage and a democratic process which will shape the country's future. The King dwelt on all aspects related to the coming stage pointing out the important issues to which attention should be given, and underlining the aspirations of the nation and the Jordanian citizens, the paper said. King Hussein has urged voters to opt for candidates who can assume serious responsibility and serve their nation with all their power, the paper added. It said that the King's address shed light on parliamentary life in the Kingdom over the past four decades and also warned against extremism which, it said, deepens differences and distorts the true image of religio and morals. Resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan, brings with it more hopes and places the Jordanian citizens face to face with new responsibilities, the paper added. It said that the new stage calls for vigilance and awareness, and the coming parliament, as King Hussein said, should serve as a forum for all people keen on serving the higher national interests.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily assails the United States for its biased stand and its voting at the latest United Nations General Assembly session following a debate on the occupied Arab lands. Mahmoud Rimawi noted that with its opposition to the assembly's resolution which was supported by all nations except Israel and the United States, the American administration is thus rejecting any consideration to the Palestinian people's rights. The writer describes Washington's attitude as eccentric and conflicting with the will and the decision of the world community. He says that the United States has thus coaxed barbaric actions committed by Israel against the defenceless people of Palestine who are trying to regain their rights and their freedom. Rimawi says Washington has not provided any answer to its inability to take steps to help the Palestinians in their legitimate endeavours but has on the contrary paved the ground for further Israeli atrocities.

Al Dastour daily said that King Hussein has urged his countrymen to be ready for the coming stage, and parliamentary life in the Kingdom by electing only those candidates who are worthy of confidence. The paper recalled that parliamentary life is being resumed for the first time in the region which saw the creation of a national consultative council, the absence of elections and economic and political events over the past two decades. It said that now that the Kingdom has severed ties with the West Bank the atmosphere is very convenient for holding elections in Jordan and for taking the country into a new stage of hard work within the framework of the constitution. But King Hussein, said the paper, has warned that the coming stage will not provide a forum for mere political statements, but rather serious and hard work for solving the numerous problems facing the Kingdom.

Palestinians make their own points

On Friday Oct. 6, the Israeli cabinet rejected President Hosni Mubarak's 10-point proposal for Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The following article, reprinted from *The Jerusalem Post*, appeared in the newspaper Friday morning.

By Joel Greenberg

A RHYMING chant shouted by demonstrators this week in Nablus bore an unmistakable and ominous message: *Abu Ammar, sabr rah, sha abak tha'er, bido shab*. In English: "Abu Ammar (Yasser Arafat's *nom de guerre*), patience has run out, your people are revolting, and want weapons."

Residents reported an angry and ugly mood among street activists in the town. They are frustrated by the escalating violence and killings in the city, with no hope of a political solution in sight.

In one incident reported this week in the casbah, shots were fired at soldiers, apparently by youths on the wanted list who had been surprised by the troops.

The atmosphere of increasing despair and frustration coincided with the laborious and protracted political manoeuvring around the latest Egyptian proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo. The lack of immediate progress in these contacts, coupled with the ferment on the ground, demanded a response from the amorphous "leadership" charting the course of the uprising in underground leaflets.

The response came this week in the form of a special communiqué published by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, and in a well-orchestrated public relations campaign by East Jerusalem activists to focus attention on the situation in the town of Beit Sahur, where the Civil Administration has launched an unprecedented crackdown to break a tax revolt.

The aim of the communiqué seemed to be to give new impetus to the uprising and to set new goals for the restless street activists while steering their demands for immediate action in ways which would avoid worse explosions of violence.

The direction chosen was non-violent civil disobedience. Using the Beit Sahur tax revolt as a rallying point, and citing the resistance in the Gaza Strip to distribution of magnetic cards for travel to Israel, the Unified Leadership called for a new phase of civil disobedience, urging Palestinians to "escalate the struggle" and "create a new state of rebellion."

The communiqué called for a five day general strike, extending into next week, and ordered a series of non-violent protests on strike days: taking to the streets en masse every evening; shouting slogans from rooftops "so our loud voice will be heard round the world"; blocking off towns, villages and refugee camps to troops and raising Palestinian flags.

As for the resistance to the magnetic cards, the leaflet termed it "a battle of confrontation waged by the masses of our people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, wherever they may be. Victory in this battle is inevitable."

In stark contrast to the standard numbered leaflets of the Unified Leadership, the special communiqué was devoid of any call for violence against Israelis or Palestinian "collaborators."

At the same time, key activists in East Jerusalem intensified their efforts to focus media attention on Beit Sahur and the magnetic card programme in the Gaza

Strip are part of a calculated Israeli effort to increase pressure on the Palestinians to accept Israel's election proposals and agree to talks on the basis of the government's peace initiative. While neither "conspiracy theory" can be proved, it is clear that the flurry of diplomatic activity has been accompanied by an atmosphere of escalation on the ground. While prominent Palestinians are warning of further deterioration if no breakthrough is made, they are not rushing to accept Mubarak's 10 points.

Husseini's comments coincided with the release of a special communiqué, with its calls for escalation but non-violent protest. The leaflet, which was easily available in East Jerusalem but failed to reach Nablus and Gaza, seemed to bear the imprint of the Palestinian intellectuals in Jerusalem, who have persistently sought to portray the uprising as a "white revolution." They have tried to steer it to non-violent channels of civil disobedience, while astutely using the media to gain public support in Israel and abroad.

Some Israeli observers linked the call for further escalation to the intensifying diplomatic activity around Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's 10-point plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks. According to these analysts, the leaflet-writers were anxious to heat up the situation in the territories in order to increase pressure on Israel and push for diplomatic movement.

Palestinian analysts, for their part, have speculated that the past month's heavy clashes and killings in Nablus, the tax crackdown on Beit Sahur and the magnetic card programme in the Gaza

Strip are part of a calculated Israeli effort to increase pressure on the Palestinians to accept Israel's election proposals and agree to talks on the basis of the government's peace initiative. While neither "conspiracy theory" can be proved, it is clear that the flurry of diplomatic activity has been accompanied by an atmosphere of escalation on the ground. While prominent Palestinians are warning of further deterioration if no breakthrough is made, they are not rushing to accept Mubarak's 10 points.

The spectrum of local Palestinian response to the Egyptian initiative can be defined according to one of its extremes: the total rejection of the 10 points by backers of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

An article published this week in *Venus*, a Nazareth-based political weekly, succinctly summarised the reasons for the rejection of the plan by Palestinian radicals. The article was written by Nabil Jourani, a Palestinian considered to be a PFLP supporter, and was entitled, "A Distorted Copy of the Shamir Plan." "The problem of the Palestinian people is not an issue of holding or not holding elections," Jourani wrote, "but rather the problem of a people and its full rights, an existential issue, no less... An existential struggle between the Arab Palestinian people and an Israeli entity and colonial occupation."

The Egyptian initiative is inadequate, according to Jourani, for the following reasons:

— It does not lead to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

— It neglects any mention of the PLO, and its sole representa-

tion of the Palestinian people.

— It ignores the right of return, the right of self-determination and establishment of an independent state.

Said a left-wing activist this week: "I don't need Egypt's 10 points, or Israel's four points. I need one point: recognition of the Palestinians as a people with legitimate national rights, that's all. Otherwise, what is there to talk about?"

The rest — and the majority — of Palestinian opinion in the occupied territories can be charted according to its distance from this extreme stance. Supporters of the Palestine Communist Party and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine have voiced varying degrees of dissatisfaction with the Egyptian plan, citing the points mentioned above, though they are more open to considering the plan if it undergoes modification.

Supporters of the mainstream Fatah group in the PLO have the least negative response to the Egyptian plan, though they too describe it as incomplete. While some are willing to accept the proposal as a basis for an invitation to talks with Israel, there is little readiness to accept suggestions that the 10 points serve as the initial Palestinian platform in the discussions.

Activist Faisal Husseini said this week that the Egyptian plan is "not enough," and fails to address the issues of self-determination, PLO participation and Palestinian national rights. Instead, he argued, the proposal speaks vaguely of Palestinian "political rights." The idea that the Palestinian negotiating team would be chosen in consultations between Egypt, the U.S. and Israel was totally unacceptable, Husseini said.

The 10 points were made even more unpalatable to PLO supporters this week following Egyptian and American statements that the plan is in fact a mechanism for implementing Prime Minister Shamir's election plan, which has been rejected outright by the Palestinians.

Radwan Abu Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association, has been mentioned as a possible participant in the Palestinian negotiating team, and was recently in Cairo. Aligned with the PLO mainstream, he says that though the Egyptian plan lacks mention of the self-determination and the final status of the territories, it could serve to move matters along and "generate new ideas" which will lead to discussion of more substantial issues.

He seems ready to accept the Egyptian proposals as a starting point for talks, provided they are accompanied by a clear timetable outlining substantive discussions that go beyond elections in the territories, and deal with terms of an overall settlement.

Abu Ayyash has no doubt that any Palestinian team will act in full coordination and consultation with the PLO, "otherwise its word would have no credibility."

In any event, Abu Ayyash says, the PLO is withholding a clear-cut answer to Mubarak's ten points, pending an Israeli response. If the PLO goes ahead and rejects the idea, he says, it will provide Prime Minister Shamir with an excuse to reject it as well. If the PLO accepts the plan, its agreement could provide Shamir with a pretext for rejecting the scheme on the grounds that it is endorsed by Israel's "terrorist" enemy.

"Now the ball is in the Israeli court," says Abu Ayyash. "Evading an answer could lead to more escalation."

The reorientation of Taiwanese economy

By Kuo-Shu Liang

TAIWAN's economic success began in the early 1960s, as outward-looking policies for industry and trade played essential roles in the rapid growth and remarkable structural transformation of the economy. The swift expansion of labour-intensive manufactured exports contributed to efficient industrialisation, by permitting specialisation according to comparative advantage and stimulating technological improvement. Living standards improved, as did income distribution, through the creation of productive employment and rapid increases in real wages. In the 1970s, however, two oil crises, and rising trade barriers and real wage rates threatened Taiwan's ability to compete with new exporters of labour-intensive products.

The economy of Taiwan is currently grappling with a huge trade imbalance with the United States and a rapid appreciation of the new Taiwan dollar. Taiwan

exported 38.7 per cent of its total exports to the United States, and its trade surplus amounted to \$10.4 billion (excluding \$2.88 billion in monetary gold imports) in 1988. Dependent on the U.S. market and without retaliatory leverage, Taiwan is a likely target of U.S. protectionist measures, although the trade surplus with the United States shrank 35 per cent in 1988 as against 1987. In addition, in the period between the Group of Five (G-5) meeting in New York in September 1985 and December 1988 the Taiwan dollar appreciated 43.7 per cent against the U.S. dollar. This development has affected considerably the economic performance of Taiwan.

In addition, due to the acceleration of the political democratisation process, the rising costs of environmental pollution and the poverty of public services and welfare can no longer be ignored. The government must restructure its policy to give greater priority to pollution control, consumer protection, and social welfare improvement.

Despite these difficulties, the economy of Taiwan remains fundamentally sound, having grown at 7.33 per cent in 1988. Policymakers presently find themselves at the crossroads, with many of the current structural problems being basically the result of the past successes. Restructuring the economy and maintaining a high rate of economic expansion will depend to a great extent on expanding domestic demand, diversifying export markets and revising mercantilist trade policies. The future lies in liberalising imports and foreign exchange control, reforming the financial system, expanding technology transfers, and assuming greater responsibility for preserving an open world trading system.

Expansion of domestic demand

The success of outward-oriented industrialisation has created a growing

export surplus, which has expanded substantially in recent years (although the export surplus as percentage of GNP declined from 20.0 per cent in 1986 to 10.4 per cent in 1988). The size of Taiwan's foreign exchange holdings has become remarkable by any standards; with foreign reserves held by the Central Bank amounting to seventeen months of imports in 1988.

An export surplus represents more domestic savings than domestic investment or a positive net foreign investment, which is unusual for a newly industrialising country in need of substantial infrastructure construction. Actually, Taiwan exports its savings in very large amounts to the United States to help finance the U.S. budget deficit, despite the continuing trade dispute.

The government and the people have become aware that a mercantilist trade policy, with its tight foreign exchange control and subsequent massive buildup of foreign exchange reserves, could cause serious trade friction. Even so, the factors that have caused the trade imbalance are many. Taiwan, for example, has transferred huge domestic savings abroad mainly because of a weak domestic demand.

The Detailed Action Plan for Strengthening Economic and Trade Ties formulated by the Council for Economic Planning and Development in March 1989 aims clearly at expanding domestic demand and achieving a significant reduction in the trade surplus.

The government has adopted an expansionary fiscal policy through major investment projects in economic and social infrastructure. Special emphasis has been placed on transportation infrastructure, environmental protection, pollution control, and medical care to improve the quality of life. The government encourages private investment in these areas whenever possible.

Trade policy liberalisation

Taiwan is revising its previous mercantilist trade policy. Although the country has gained a great deal from external trade, if domestic markets are not open for imports, the Taiwan will be vulnerable to charges of "unfair trade." Import restrictions have been relaxed considerably in recent years, as the government has made 16 wide-ranging tariff cuts since 1971. Among the newly-imported commodities, U.S. products as wine and beer have already secured an expanding market share in Taiwan. Taiwan's imports of passenger cars and aeroplanes increased by as much as 2.8 times as compared with those in 1987. Passenger car imports from the U.S. account for 30.4 per cent of total auto imports. Import shares of household laundry equipment and freezers exceed 70 per cent. Moreover, the average rate of effective duty has been brought down to 5.7 per cent.

"As a result the Western partners pulled out warning it would not work, and we are left with the pollution and a lot of excess sulphur," said Yabikov.

"We are not ready for cooperation with the West. We are too simple and trusting," he said.

and a group of nine banks, five regular major foreign exchange banks and four local and foreign banks chosen on a rotation basis, set the range of buying and selling rates that apply to transactions under \$30,000. For trades exceeding \$30,000, rates are negotiated by trading banks with customers. There is a provision for resetting the exchange rate so as to make the exchange rate respond to the course of business during the day. This reform will allow market forces to play a greater role in determining exchange rates. The central bank can reduce the amount of intervention, and adjustments will be made primarily to maintain an orderly market rather than simply to "lean against the wind" and slow down changes in the exchange rate.

Direct foreign investment

Taiwan plans to make better use of its foreign exchange earnings for investment abroad rather than simply accumulating low-yield foreign reserves. Firms manufacturing apparel, plastic shoes, toys and handbags have relocated to lower-cost countries in the Asia-Pacific region, especially Thailand and Malaysia. A growing number have located production or acquired foreign firms in industrial countries, especially in the United States, to avoid trade barriers and obtain new technology. The government does not interfere in trade and investment activities between Taiwan and mainland China if they are handled through third countries.

Taiwan introduced a new exchange rate policy in April 1989. Previously, a daily mid-rate was set according to the weighted average of the previous day's transactions. Bank traders had to buy and sell within 2.25 per cent of the mid-rate. The new guidelines abolish the 2.25 per cent limit.

LETTERS

Putting the records straight

To the Editor:

I WAS astonished to find the article "The Austrian model could be a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict", taken from *The Jerusalem Post* in Oct. 8 issue of the *Jordan Times*. It is certainly malicious and utterly bad faith to describe Austria as a neutralised country with full sovereignty only existing on paper.

Let me put the records straight:

(1) Austria's neutrality was a free and autonomous decision of its parliament after the last allied occupation soldier has left the country. It is true that the Soviet Union had indicated about half a year before that some form of Austrian guarantee against any future "Anschluss" with Germany would pave the way for the withdrawal

Unemployment in Jordan — finding solutions

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Official statistics show that the unemployment rate in Jordan is 9.1 per cent. However studies carried out by individuals show this rate varying from 13 per cent to as much as 30 per cent. But, whatever the percentage, the government is exerting a lot of effort towards solving this problem. It is creating programmes for the unemployed aimed at rehabilitating professionals of various fields in a move aimed at more compatibility between the needed labour and available cadres in Jordan.

Muwan Dudin, an authority on the subject and ex-minister of labour, believes that the solution for unemployed graduates should be a well-studied plan implemented by the private sector. "The Vocational Training Centre should get more involved in tailored programmes," he said. "In this way, it can find out the areas that need more labour. This would be in addition to its basic duty of taking in unsuccessful 9th and 10th graders to develop their practical skills."

The Ministry of Labour, in conjunction with other organisations, has already commenced training programmes, particularly in textile, health and social welfare areas. "We need some sort of cooperation between the private and public sectors," says Dudin. "For example, a volume of 1,000 people of various degrees could be placed in private organisations or companies. There, they would train for set professions. The first year they would be given pocket money to cover transportation and a meal. The second year they would be assessed by the employer in terms of performance. After the four

years, the trainee's presence would become vital to the company. So, the employer would benefit from such manpower."

Financially, this programme would be costly, but it would take the place of other unnecessary plans that could be cancelled, according to Dudin.

The frozen five-year plan (1986-1990) aimed at finding job opportunities for a good part of Jordan's unemployed labour force. But the plan was shelved because of the economic crisis in the country.

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, political science professor at the University of Jordan, explains: "Some of the reasons for unemployment in Jordan are regional, international, and some are local. On an international level the economic situation in the world is not settled. It is in constant motion with new forces coming up and with others declining. This affects the lives of the Jordanians on the regional and local levels.

"For example, take the recession of petrolem during the last two years in the Gulf countries. It reflected on Jordan in a variety of ways. One, the Gulf countries stopped taking in additional Jordanian manpower. Second, Jordan suffered from the lack of import of its goods. A third regional factor is the Iraq-Iran war. The latter stimulated Jordanian exports, but now that the war is over Iraq no longer needs the goods that Jordan used to produce and sell it. In addition, remittances of Jordanians working abroad have declined. Lastly, the economic aid that used to come from oil-producing countries stopped (except from Saudi Arabia). All these factors have effected Jordan's local economy. The Jordanian developmental efforts commenced in the early

70s. Since then, the economy has not been managed prudently and wisely. Jordanians became complacent thinking that if the problem was ignored it would go away. Society was living beyond its means whilst the country was suffering from a loss of income."

Agriculture

A definite lack of labourers is to be found in agriculture. Asians are the people mostly working in this area. They usually accept smaller wages since they do not have many responsibilities to deal with when compared with Jordanians, experts say.

A Jordanian does not accept to work in agriculture because it is not profitable for him to do so. He needs a salary that will cover all of his expenses: rent, food, electricity, and his children's school fees. He demands higher wages.

"But employers believe in the supply and demand law whereby it is the market that decides the wages of employees," Dudin says. "An employer will not hesitate to hire 10 people instead of six, and pay the 10 what ought to have been paid to the six."

In theory, this looks nice since it takes care of the unemployed though at a certain cost.

A Jordanian also asks to be respected and not to be treated in a degrading manner. A lot of the foreign hands have to put up with a lot of abuse from their employers, experts point out. For one thing, if an employee is working without a permit, he is scared that his boss will tell the authorities on him. "So he has to put up with a lot of insults and shouting, and just swallow his pride," said a labour expert. "He is also worried of losing his job. It is almost impossible for him to find a well-paying job in his own country," Dudin argues.

Qasem says that "it was only after 1982 that Jordan witnessed

this problem of unemployment." He explains that the Jordanian economy was based on an import/export formula, and not on industry.

Skills and availability of jobs

After 1982, unemployment appeared in the form of a crisis with major aspects. One, is the new graduates who seek jobs for the first time and do not find any work opportunities. Qasem found that these represent 55 per cent of the unemployment figure; 59 per cent of which are bachelors of community college diplomas, 22 per cent university degrees, and 19 per cent are high-school graduates. These figures exclude the approximately 50,000 students who have studied abroad.

In Qasem's opinion, there is an imbalance between education and the country's job demands. "The five year plan indicates that 45 per cent of the graduates find work other than the one they are qualified for. This is a form of unemployment," he says.

A 30-year-old civil engineer faces this sort of unemployment. After graduating from an American university, he came back to Jordan. He was faced with a lot of dismaying rejections from employers. Now, he works as a computer operator. All he does in a day is to print data into the computer. Obviously, his productive energy is not being put to full use. Another 32-year-old civil engineer with a masters degree from England faced unemployment for one and a half years. After many futile attempts at finding work here, he has now decided to move to Saudi Arabia.

Commenting on Jordanians forced to seek jobs outside, Dudin says: "Our economy is a private sector economy." We should always be able to accommodate the private sector people in a manner that makes them continue to invest in the country, to use the money in the country, and not to escape the country," he says.

She worked at this private school for six years, and then was asked to resign. Her dismissal was related to her "private life and ideas." "When I was doing my job, my private ideas were kept in a separate compartment. I made sure that my personal life never interfered with my professional life," she says.

The Social Security Corporation covers insurances against occupational injuries and offers old age pensions. Seasonal or temporary unemployment exists mainly in agriculture and construction. Qasem has found that around 40,000 people work in agriculture, and 54,000 in construction. "These figures represent 18 per cent of the work force exposed to total or partial unemployment," he says. He thinks that these two areas are the most exposed to ill-treatment and injustice. "The agricultural sector does not even have a trade union to defend the rights of these workers," he says. "No union exists for these people because of the seasonal nature of the work. Tuhaco and lentil harvesting do not need full time labourers. Asians usually come to Jordan for certain seasons, and then go back to their other jobs.

Qasem also argues that acts 16 and 17 of the labour law permit an employer to fire his employee for any reason no matter how trivial. As a member of the labour union, he says that he witnesses large numbers of dismissed citizens coming daily to the union.

Dudin responds to this by saying that a labourer can refuse to take the compensation given on dismissal. "Through his trade union, a labourer can report this to the labour inspector of the area. The latter will try to solve the problem with the trade union representative. They can then decide if it is a labour dispute or not, and if so they can go to court," he explains.

In Jordan insurance against unemployment does not exist. "I do not see how within the economic circumstances of redirecting our way of life, that we can ask the work owners to pay more to the Social Security Corporation," says Dudin. For the employer and employee have to contribute a certain percentage from their money for the fees of such an insurance. Employees are already complaining of low wages, so this

insurance, at the moment, is not practical."

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Moreover, the problem of unemployment in Jordan remains a serious issue. It is hoped that by 1993, in the course of correcting the economy, that wages will be raised to a better minimum more suitable to the new demands of life. Unfortunately, at this time unemployment is expected to increase.

"I think we are just at the beginning of the crisis. It is going to be a longer and deeper problem than anyone foresees. We should not have borrowed to the extent that we did. Now, this borrowing has become another burden. Jordanians have lost credibility in their own economy, and the credibility of others in the Jordanian economy. These are significant obstacles that will have to be overcome in the process of recycling the Jordanian economy," says Abu Jaber.

How to live 150 years

By Viviane Senniak

AN American woman, who died in 1980 at the age of 113 years and 215 days, attributed her long life to the fact of eating stewed apples and to never having been married.

About 5,000 French people today are aged over a hundred. Some of them have always led a sober, regular life. Others have never deprived themselves of wine, tobacco or other pleasures. And countries which are reported for their large number of hundred-year-olds, such as Ecuador or the upper plateaux in the Soviet Union, can offer no rational explanation for this phenomenon. So who can one rely on to clear up the mystery of ageing, of death and therefore of life?

One obvious matter on which doctors and researchers agree is that over-eating or eating wrongly, overindulging in alcohol and smoking are risk factors for cardio-vascular disease and cancer, the same as serious vitamin deficiencies have fatal consequences. But it is not enough to maintain a good hygiene of life to slow down the ageing process which begins at the focus stage. By feeding oneself correctly one simply has better chances of growing old in better health.

"It is as hard to define ageing as to explain what life is," admits Jacques Treton, a biologist at the Gerontology Unit of INSERM in

Paris. This scientist studies the ageing of the cells in the crystal of the eye and the formation of cataracts (opacities of the eye leading to blindness), in order to detect why, from the age of 20 and over, the capacities of the eyesight fall suddenly independently of the health of the individual.

All our cells are programmed, at the embryo stage, to fulfill precise functions following a general curve. Thus one is able to stand upright around the age of one, to write around the age of one, then one acquires wrinkles, white hair and one sees one's faculties decreasing gradually.

It is the law of nature for all mammals, but not for all vertebrates. Thus, snakes, lizards and crocodiles do the opposite of mammals. The older they are, the bigger they are and the more eggs they lay. They are also sensitive to temperature: if a lizard is exposed to the sun for a long time, its life will be shorter and, conversely, if left in the shade, it will live to a ripe old age. Experiments give no significant results with warm-blooded animals. These however are sensitive to food. Rats put on a diet will have a spectacularly longer lifespan.

Another area of reflection is that whereas a doe-rabbit will have a lot of young and will only live a few years, a whale, or an elephant, will only have a single

descendant, but will live for a very long time. From these examples, should one conclude that human beings should spend their lives in the shade, follow a diet and, not have any children in order to live longer?

The American biologist Roy Walford asserts that we already have all we need to live to be 120, on condition we follow a very strict diet, 1,500 to 2,000 calories a day, without sugar, or honey, or alcohol or fat. But that does not provide an answer to the question: does one "wear out" the human machine by using it (even with precautions) or will it break down anyway?

The machine in question is well-built as it is its own mechanism: the cells damaged by ultraviolet rays, chemical products and accidents repair themselves, as can be seen with skin which heals alone. In the long term, repairs take a little longer, but this slow-down is not enough to explain the gradual and then total breakdown of the human machine. Ageing would thus not appear to be a simple matter of wear. It would seem to be genetically recorded in our cells.

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Sun's outbursts make heavenly gift for polar lights researchers

By Doug Mellgren
The Associated Press

TROMSOE, Norway — A geomagnetic storm battering the earth's poles is growing increasingly violent, and northern lights researchers are elated.

The storm, caused by the bombardment of energy from solar activity, is making the shimmering aurora borealis brighter, more colourful and more spectacular than usual this year.

Unni Pia Loehaug, a space researcher, plans to fire bolts of electricity at the atmosphere, the layer of earth's atmosphere that acts like a movie screen for the solar lights, to get an even better picture.

The study should offer insights into the universe, shed light on theories of physics and "increase man's storehouse of knowledge," she said.

Loehaug's work may have practical application in helping to overcome the havoc that the electrically charged lights can play with radio communications and navigation.

In Tromsø, 300 kilometres north of the Arctic circle, the tourism board is thanking its lucky stars for the aurora borealis, which has drawn the curious and adventurous for hundreds of years.

These amazing sheets of light are the offspring of solar winds,

watts, enough power to light a small village, bounces a radar beam off the ionosphere 50 to 2,000 kilometres above the earth. Signals are picked up in Sweden and Finland and relayed to Tromsø.

The collision releases the storm of energy seen in the constantly changing lights. Over the South pole they are called the aurora australis.

"It's absolutely the most fantastic thing we have up here at the South pole," said tourist official Gunn Sissel Jaklin.

"The aurora will just keep getting better and better from now until 1994 because the 11-year solar cycle is moving toward a peak."

Loehaug keeps tabs on the lights summer and winter, even when they are dimmed or hidden by the midnight sun.

"We're already seeing things that I have never witnessed before," Loehaug said of the sun's outbursts. She has studied the lights since 1983.

From her laboratory 30 kilometres from town, the 33-year-old physicist is taking part in Eiscat, a project launched in 1981 to study the northern lights and the earth's outer atmosphere.

Eiscat's studies are funded by Britain, France, West Germany, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

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Kuwait draws up scheme for massive petrochemical industry

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf oil producer Kuwait is drawing up plans for a multi-billion-dollar downstream petrochemical industry, 10 years after Saudi Arabia launched a similar project that made it a major world supplier.

Petroleum industry sources say eight separate plants with a combined cost easily exceeding \$2 billion have now come off Kuwaiti government drawing boards.

When the plants come on-stream — projected in 1994 and 1995 — the private sector will build a second generation of chemical plants to use their feedstocks, they added.

Kuwaiti sources working on the plan said Kuwait has already approached several international companies to prepare preliminary feasibility studies for potential licensing agreements.

net profit for the first six months of 1989.

The sources say world demand has begun to fall off, but should pick up again by the mid-1990s.

The Kuwaiti sources said Kuwait Oil Minister Ali Al Khafra had thrown his weight behind the project, which has yet to be approved by the Kuwaiti cabinet and the Higher Petroleum Council.

"We are in the process of setting up a giant petrochemical project in Kuwait to serve our basic aim of increasing manufacturing and raising the share of Kuwaiti industrial exports," Sheikh Ali said in an interview several weeks ago with Al Rai Al Aam newspaper.

"After finishing the modernisation of refineries in Kuwait we will now move on to the petrochemicals field," he was quoted as saying.

The sources said the plants will use naphtha and natural gas as their feedstocks.

Kuwait's oil refineries produce an abundance of naphtha, but the country would have to either import the gas or increase its petroleum production to obtain more associated gas from its oil fields.

The sources said the new petrochemical complex would likely be located south of Kuwait City between Shuaiba and Abdulla ports.

A polypropylene plant was begun earlier this year at a cost of \$100 million to \$120 million, but is outside the scope of the new project, the sources said.

According to industry sources the projected development would include six plants for non-aromatic product — high density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer and styrene butadiene rubber — and two for aromatics — ortho-xylene and paraxylene.

A major petrochemical plant in Saudi Arabia which lured Kuwait to follow suit.



ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Oman discovers platinum

NICOSIA (R) — Platinum has been discovered in the mountainous northern region of the Sultanate of Oman, the Omani News Agency has said. "Platinum has been discovered in the northern mountains of the country opening new doors for our mineral industry," the agency quoted the general manager for minerals in the ministry of petroleum and minerals as saying. General Manager Mohammad ibn Hussein ibn Qassem said "the research is taking place under the direct supervision of the ministry of petroleum and minerals which is going to do a complete survey of the area in the hope of finding commercial quantities of gold and platinum," the agency said.

Malaysian trade surplus shrinks

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia recorded a foreign trade surplus of 4.364 billion ringgits (\$1.623 billion) in the first half of this year, 31.1 per cent lower than the 6.334 billion ringgits (\$2.355 billion) chalked up in the first half of last figures released by the government statistics department have shown. The department said exports rose by 23.0 per cent to 31.856 billion ringgits (\$11.847 billion) in the six months of this year, while imports rose by 40.5 per cent to 27.491 billion ringgits (\$10.223 billion) for the same periods. Imports of machinery and transport equipment, at 12.644 billion ringgits (\$4.702 billion), accounted for 46.0 per cent of all imports. Other major imports were manufactured goods, chemicals, food and miscellaneous manufactured articles. Major exports were oil, rubber, palm oil, timber, cocoa and manufactured items.

Kuwait extends cheap loan to China

PEKING (R) — A Kuwaiti state agency has provided China with a cheap loan to help build a factory producing badly needed iron pipes carrying oil, gas and water, the China Daily has said. It said officials of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development signed the loan, for six million dollars (\$20 million) in Peking with officials of the ministry of foreign economic relations and trade. The money covers one-third of the cost of the factory, which will be built in the northeastern province of Liaoning. Production will start at the end of 1991, the newspaper said. The loan will be repaid over 18 years with a four-year grace period. The first payment will be made in April 1993 and the annual interest rate is five per cent, plus 0.5 per cent to cover administrative expenses. Since 1982, the Kuwaiti agency has loaned China a total of \$300 million for projects such as airports, harbours and power stations, the newspaper said.

Portugal's bourses to modernise

LISBON (R) — Portugal's two small bourses in Lisbon and Oporto, seeking to catch up with the rest of Europe, have said they will install a 800 million escudo (\$4.8 million) unified electronic system by May 1990 to modernise their inefficient trading. Bourse officials said the two will be linked by a new information system that will also allow continuous trading eventually. Officials said they hoped the new system would increase liquidity in the exchanges which are only now showing signs of recovering from the October 1987 world stock markets crash. Some stock market operators had feared that, with the liberalisation of capital movements between Portugal and the rest of the European Community ahead of the creation of a single market in 1992, foreign and domestic investors would take their money elsewhere if the Portuguese bourses did not shape up quickly.

Glaxo reports record profits

LONDON (R) — Britain's Glaxo pharmaceutical group, whose Zantac anti-ulcer drug is a world best-seller, said it had made a record pre-tax profit of £1 billion (\$1.57 billion) in the year to June 30. It said pre-tax profits had jumped 20 per cent over the £832 million (\$1.31 billion) recorded a year earlier. Glaxo chief executive Ernest Mario said the sharp rise in profits had been helped along in two ways. "The exchange rate was very favourable for us, and secondly we had a large increase in our income from investments outside of our business," Mario said on television. He said Zantac, the top selling prescription medicine in the world and the first prescription drug to sell more than £1 billion (\$1.57 billion) in one year, remained a major earner. But he warned that the drug, whose medical name is Ranitidine, faced stiff competition from other brands.

Apple to exhibit in Dubai

AMMAN (J.T.) — During a press conference at the Dubai World Trade Centre last month, the Macworld Middle East was announced to take place in Dubai, within the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition and Conference (Gitec) from Oct. 16 to 19, 1989.

22 international exhibitors are joining Macworld Middle East this year, coming from seven countries.

This exhibition, which is an Apple exhibition dedicated to Macintosh and third parties, has been taking place since 1986 in various European and American countries.

This year Macworld Middle East will be launching new products for the first time in the Middle East.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, October 8, 1989
Central Bank official rates

Boys	Sell	French franc	97.1	98.1
622.0	623.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	436.6	441.0
999.7	1009.7	Dutch guilder	291.6	294.0
329.5	332.8	Swedish crown	96.1	97.1
379.1	382.9	Italian lira (for 100)	45.0	45.3
		Belgian franc (for 100)	156.7	158.3

Conference weighs GCC financial role

KUWAIT (AP) — Finance Minister Jasseem Al Khorafi has stressed the need for the Gulf's economic institutions to become more competitive in world financial markets.

"The point at stake is to what extent our local financial institutions are prepared and able to offer their financial services at competitive prices on the local market," he said in an address to about 400 Western and Gulf economists.

Khorafi said that bolstering the competitiveness of Gulf institutions "places huge burdens on the shoulders of the executives. I warn against some fallacies arguing that financial abundance or the pumping of public money is the way for national institutions to enhance their competitiveness," he said.

Khorafi was opening a three-day conference on "globalisation of financial markets and its impact on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries."

It groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. They formed the GCC in 1981 to work toward a common market.

The chairman of the organising committee, Modi Al Homoud, told the conference: "It has become imperative for us to acquaint ourselves with the new trends in world markets and examine their impact on the GCC countries."

Homoud, dean of the faculty of economics at Kuwait University, told the conference: "The open economies of the GCC countries have been vitally affected by developments on the world markets... integrated into the global economy, they cannot escape from changes in monetary policies of the major nations."

The newspaper Moskovskaya Pravda said bribes were worked out on a sliding scale and showed exactly how much had to be paid under the table to open a cooperative in the capital.

"It is well known that without bribes today you cannot get the necessary permission or premises," it said.

The city prosecutor told the newspaper 18 separate departments supervised the 13,000 registered city cooperatives and for the most part they did nothing but hinder them.

Such support had positive impact on Jordan and helped it overcome the difficult situation, he asserted.

Saqqaf expressed confidence that the meetings will come up with positive and fruitful results, which will serve the interest of both kingdoms.

Faqih reiterated Saudi Arabia's commitment and its interests in developing and strengthening bilateral cooperation with Jordan and noted that the committee's meetings in Amman seek to bolster the brotherly relations existing between the two countries.

Officials make Soviet cooperatives pay bribes

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet cooperatives, under fire in the parliament and on the streets for alleged speculation, are facing a fresh assault from corrupt officials who routinely demand big bribes, a Moscow newspaper has reported.

The newspaper Moskovskaya Pravda said bribes were worked out on a sliding scale and showed exactly how much had to be paid under the table to open a cooperative in the capital.

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Study forecasts shift in female employment

GENEVA (AP) — An International Labour Organisation study has forecast that more than a billion women will be economically active by the year 2000 with a growing majority taking jobs in services and industry.

The 127-page study also says that the North-South gap in prospects for equality of sexes in employment opportunities has widened.

A similar, though less pronounced trend was forecast in the Third World, the female share of the economically active population was expected to remain at 34 per cent at the dawn of the next century, unchanged since 1950.

In black Africa, the share may even decline from 42 per cent to 37 per cent if present trends continue, the study said.

This compares with a projected rise in the women's share by the year 2000.

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Mohammed Al Saqqaf and the Saudi under-secretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy for International Economic Cooperation Affairs Usama Jaafar Faqih co-chaired the Joint Jordanian-Saudi Economic Committee meetings which started here Sunday.

Addressing the opening session, Saqqaf voiced gratitude for the Saudi government's positions towards Jordan. Saqqaf pointed out that honourable Saudi stands towards Jordan have been reflected in the financial support it gave to Jordan during the difficult economic situation which affected Jordan recently.

Such support had positive impact on Jordan and helped it overcome the difficult situation, he asserted.

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Jordan, S. Arabia praise ties

Faqih said that the Saudi support to Jordan reflects its pan-Arab duty towards Jordan, with which "we maintain brotherly relations."

He voiced appreciation for the committee's achievements and said that they look forward to further strengthening of benefits.

He referred to the establishment of the Joint Saudi-Jordanian Industrial and Agricultural Investments Company and said that Saudi Arabia has provided all the necessary support for this company to help it achieve its objectives.

He praised Jordan's development experience and said it was the symbol of our pride in the Arab region.

The committee will discuss over three days means of enhancing cooperation in the various fields and will discuss the possibility of concluding a transport agreement.

OAPEC urges deeper look for more oil

ABU DHABI (R) — A leading Arab oil official has urged Arab countries, already sitting on more than 60 per cent of world's reserves, to explore deep formations for more oil.

Abdul Aziz Al Wattabi, secretary general of Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), said they should import advanced know-how to reach depths not yet explored.

"We believe that prospecting in deep formations (in Arab countries) constitutes an essential part of exploratory efforts aimed at enhancing future energy resources," he told a seminar on prospects of bountiful oil in deep geological layers.

Wattabi said oil had been discovered in formations deeper than 6,000 metres in several areas outside the Arab World, adding: "We should not assume that deeper formations bear only gas."

Delegates to the seminar in Abu Dhabi said Arab countries produced oil from formations which were on average less than 3,000 metres down.



Peanuts



Andy Capp



East German leader Erich Honecker accompanied by Soviet soldiers at a wreath-laying ceremony

Thursday to mark the 40th anniversary of the East German state.

E. German anniversary ends in street battles

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Hundreds were detained and dozens injured when East Germans ended the country's 40th anniversary celebrations by taking to the streets to demand political reforms in the largest protest since 1953.

Authorities blamed Western news media and "hooligans" for provoking unrest in several cities of the hardline communist state Saturday night.

Riot police supported by jack-booted troops from the state security ministry battled thousands of protesters in the country's biggest upsurge of political unrest since a workers' uprising against communist domination 36 years ago.

Thousands took to the streets to demand help from visiting Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Saturday was the state's 40th birthday.

Protestant church sources told Reuters that riot squads and elite Security Ministry troops detained up to 700 demonstrators during clashes in East Berlin through the night well into early Sunday.

Between 80 and 100 people were injured, according to Reuters.

Other witnesses quoted by the AP, including Associated Press reporters covering the demonstrations Saturday, estimated that police may have arrested as many as 1,000 people in East Berlin alone.

Peter Miller, a reporter for the Sunday Times of London, said he was detained for six hours Sunday before being released and ordered to leave the country. He estimated that about 1,000 demonstrators were being held at the East Berlin jail where he was taken.

Reuters sources had no immediate details on casualties or deten-

450,000 leaving in the past month alone.

Witnesses said police in Dresden, which experienced its fourth night of demonstrations, fired teargas and used watercanon to disperse over 5,000 protesters who marched through the elegant city on the river Elbe.

In Leipzig some police shelled submachine-guns while others chased demonstrators with truncheons.

East Berlin's demonstration grew suddenly Saturday afternoon after about 150 youngsters began shouting "freedom, freedom" on the central Alexander square where the authorities had set up stalls and dance-areas for anniversary celebrations.

More and more people joined in as the protesters set off to the nearby Palace of the Republic, a cavernous smoked-glass and marble building where Gorbachev attended a reception with East German leader Erich Honecker and other dignitaries.

Police quickly sealed off access and people chanted for Gorbachev to help them, called for reforms and screamed "stasi (security police) out" and "police out."

But Gorbachev failed to appear in public again and left for Moscow.

Demonstrators, by this stage over 5,000, filled the main street heading away from the palace out of town towards the Gethsemane church, scene of a round-the-clock vigil for detainees from previous protests in Leipzig and elsewhere.

As some of the crowd drifted away, police sealed off streets in the crumbling Prenzlauer Berg district, called in the State Security Ministry troops and volunteer workers' militia and brought up trucks with wide barriers.

Air force bombers seek 'top gun' honour

By Robert Macy
The Associated Press

INDIAN SPRINGS, Nevada — The world's top jet fighter pilots are bombing and strafing targets on a bleak desert range, not in training for the next war, but in a competition for the coveted honour of "top gun."

At "Gunsmoke '89," a kind of championship for attack plane pilots from around the globe, the competition is unfolding this month during two weeks of daily simulated air attacks in two valleys 65 kilometres northwest of Las Vegas.

The biennial exercise at the sprawling Nellis Air Force base bombing and Gunnery range draws the cream of the U.S. air force pilots and crews who have won regional competitions at

metres, then dives towards a speck of a target.

The pilot has to concentrate on the degree of the dive, the location of the target, the speed of his plane, wind and other factors.

While focused on the target and the precise second to press the "pickle button" — whose nickname is part of the arcane jargon of the flight world — the pilot must also "fly stable so the radar can get an accurate look at the target," Williams explained.

A pilot's concentration of his mind is tested by the case of photos flying the craft into the ground," Williams said. "The result of target fixation is often death."

While accidents are a hazard of military practice, the eight-

Hungarians dump communism

BUDAPEST (R) — In a move unprecedented in the history of communism, Hungary's ruling party has voted itself out of existence and created a socialist party pledged to Western-style democracy.

A large majority of nearly 1,300 delegates voted for the move late Saturday, the second day of an extraordinary Communist Party congress.

"An era has come to end," Janos Barabas, senior ideologist of the defunct party, told a news conference. "The party-state has come to end."

The Communists took power in Hungary in the late 1940s and survived a bloody uprising in October and November 1956 which was quelled by Soviet

tanks. The party was led from then until May 1988 by Janos Kadar, who died last July.

Only 159 delegates voted against the call by party President Rezsos Nyers to dump more than 40 years of Marxism-Leninism.

Opponents included Karoly Grosz, who launched Hungary's current wave of reform by ousting Kadar but has been swept away in the tide.

But Nyers, who took over the leadership from Grosz in June, managed to avoid a major split believed to be on the cards by stressing the need for unity at a sensitive time of transition to democracy.

Parliament is due to pass laws this month legalising non-Communist parties in preparation for

multi-party elections by the middle of next year, the first since 1947.

Nyers, a 66-year-old former social democrat once dropped from the leadership by Kadar because he pushed the reform line, is virtually certain to be elected president of the new Hungarian Socialist Party in a vote expected Monday.

Delegates were Sunday debating the new party's programme, which will include a commitment to a mixed economy and democracy both inside and outside the party.

"The foundation of the new party is an act of crucial importance for Hungarian democracy, constitutionality and the continu-

ity of socialism. It is a progressive historical step that every socialist should support," Nyers said.

Nyers appealed to Hungary's opposition groups to cooperate with him as the country moved away from a one-party system.

The opposition movements, though relatively small and inexperienced, stunned the Communists by winning four by-elections this year. Polls suggested the old party stood little chance of winning a majority in next year's elections.

Some opposition activists suggested before Saturday's vote that the new party might be little more than the old party with a new sign on its door unless it dropped a large number of conservative diehards.



Coyotes in New York

KENT, New York (AP) — Apparently not in their regular neighbourhood, coyotes are being sighted in New York City's northern suburbs, officials say. Anthony Cazzari, town supervisor, said last week that when he walked out of his house Tuesday morning, "A strange-looking dog" staring at him. On a second look, he said, he realized there was a coyote in his yard. He ran inside to get a camera but the animal was gone when he came out. Coyotes are small wolves native to America's western prairies. They grow up to 1.2 metres long.

Charles gains 'strength' from polo

NEW YORK (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles says that playing a game of polo helps him maintain an image of a strong, tough leader, according to an interview published in Polo Life magazine. The prince also says in the interview published in the autumn issue of Polo Life that playing polo reinforces his mental and physical strength. "One of the things I've always felt strongly about in this position is leadership, or setting an example," he says. "I do believe it's very important to be seen not to be a chicken, to be leading from the front, showing you're prepared to do perhaps some of the more dangerous things." He says he almost never loses his temper while playing polo but admits: "I swear occasionally, not too loud. On the whole, I remain reasonable." He is not going to force either of his sons to play the game he loves so much but admits he hopes they take up the sport. Polo Life is a publication of Fleet Street publishing corporation in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

'Guru' adopts new name

LAKE OSWEGO, Oregon (AP) — Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has adopted a new name — Osho — and given his followers a change of habit. Osho is a Japanese word that means "the whole man, the fully awakened one and respectfully symbolizes a man of peace, grace and love upon whom existence is showering all its blessings from every direction," according to a statement from the sect's Oregon press service. Disciples also have begun wearing maroon robes during the day and white robes during evening meditations at the commune in Pune, India, the release said. In the years when the commune was based in Oregon, Rajneeshis wore various shades of red, but the 58-year-old guru later advised them to drop the practice to avoid harassment and discrimination. The self-described "rich man's guru," who teaches meditation as a means to enlightenment, returned to India four years ago after pleading guilty to U.S. immigration charges.

Note across the ocean

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — An eight-year-old boy stuck a message in a bottle, threw it into the ocean and waited for a response. He got one five years later — from England. "Hello Tommy," wrote 15-year-old Anya Leeds. "I don't know whether you remember sending your note in a bottle. We just found it on the other side of the Atlantic." Tom Mote, of Dania, whose son Tommy put the bottle in the ocean in July 1984, said: "I couldn't believe that bottle had been around for five years." The bottle was found by 10-year-old Gareth Wildman on a beach in Penzance, on the southwest tip of England.



Two Tamil boys distributing leaflets of Tamil rebel groups in northern Sri Lanka

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippine Muslim leaders reject 'autonomy'

ZAMBOANGA (R) — Muslim religious leaders ended a two-day convention in Zamboanga Sunday with a call to reject the government's offer of autonomy for 13 southern Philippine provinces.

The 200 leaders passed a resolution denouncing the offer a day after the army published a list of 127 towns and five cities "hot spots" for the Nov. 19 autonomy plebiscite. President Corazon Aquino offered the autonomy plan for 13 provinces with mixed Christian and Muslim populations in hopes of ending Muslim unrest on Mindanao Island, where a separatist war in the 1970s killed more than 50,000 people.

Pilot killed in Indian air show

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian jet fighter pilot was killed and at least seven people injured Sunday when his Mirage 2000 crashed in a huge ball of yellow flame during an air force display. Witnesses said the pilot was performing solo aerobatics in the French-built jet when he failed to pull out of a vertical loop and plunged into the ground in the military area of Delhi airport. The fireball came within about 100 metres of where junior air force officers and their families were sitting with some 4,000 other spectators, sending people fleeing in panic.

Dutch police launch new anti-virus disk

AMSTERDAM (R) — An embarrassed Hague police department and a piqued Dutch university have launched a new computer disk to combat a "virus" primed to wipe out thousands of personal computer memories Friday Oct. 13. The new disk supersedes one put on sale by the Hague police Tuesday amid a massive publicity campaign. Rotterdam's Erasmus University, which created the anti-virus software, claims not only that it was copied and sold without permission, but that staff were bombarded with complaints because the programme was incomplete. A Hague police spokesman said they regretted the incident. Computer experts said in the Netherlands alone 100,000 personal computers, around 10 per cent of the total, had contracted the data-crime II virus programmed to sabotage computer memories, destroying everything stored on them.

Thousands march in Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — Tens of thousands marched on the Capitol Saturday to demand affordable housing and protest deep cuts in federal housing programmes which organizers blamed for the growing U.S. homeless problem. "Millions of people living on the streets of the wealthiest country on earth is wrong," said Mitch Snyder, veteran homeless activist who runs a shelter three blocks from the Capitol. March organizers said about 200,000 people swelled through the parks and monuments of Washington to rally at the steps of the Capitol. U.S. park police put the number at 40,000. "We will not rest until every child, every family, has a decent home and a living wage," declared Coretta Scott King, wife of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

Argentine president grants pardons

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem, seeking a reconciliation between civilians and the armed forces, said Saturday he had granted pardons to 39 military officers and 64 former guerrillas accused of crimes committed during last decade's so-called dirty war. Menem, who made the announcement from his home province of La Rioja, 1,100 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires, signed four decrees for the pardons late Friday, government press director Adalberto Diaz Garcia told Reuters. "Difficult times we speak about a reconciliation between Argentines to bring about the needed pacification," Menem said.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	10	50	14
ATHENS	10	50	21
BAHRAM	24	75	34
BANGKOK	25	77	53
BUEENOS AIRES	10	50	20
CARDO	12	64	28
CAIRO	08	46	16
COPENHAGEN	10	50	14
FRANKFURT	08	38	19
GENEVA	08	38	16
HONG KONG	25	77	52
ISTANBUL	11	52	16
LONDON	12	54	14
LOS ANGELES	17	63	26
MADRID	13	55	28
MECCA	24	75	43
MONTREAL	02	56	11
MOSCOW	02	56	03
NEW DELHI	22	72	35
NEW YORK	12	53	21
PARIS	11	52	24
ROME	05	41	23
SYDNEY	12	54	21
TOKYO	18	64	21
VIENNA	09	46	18